

EARLY APPEARANCES OF *CALLOPHRYS RUBI* L. AND *PYRGUS MALVAE* L. IN WORCESTERSHIRE. — Several *Callophrys rubi* were seen on the Malvern Hills on 25th April 1982, an exceptionally early date for this species in this part of the country. *Pyrgus malvae* was seen by Mr Tom Parker at Trench Wood near Droitwich on 26th April this year, and there was another sighting of this species in Wyre Forest on the following day. — J. E. GREEN, 25 Knoll Lane, Poolbrook, Malvern, Worcs WR14 3JU.

FURTHER KENTISH RECORDS OF THE DOTTED RUSTIC: *RHYACIA SIMULANS* HUFN. — Continued spread of this species is evidenced by 1981 m/v appearances at Dungeness on 9th July and at my home on an exceedingly exposed area of the North Downs on 4th. Aug., 5th Aug., 15th Sept. (2), and 24th. Sept. Migratory insects frustratingly avoid Detling Hill, however the regularity of reported sightings of this species elsewhere in the county must surely indicate it now to be firmly established as a resident. — N. F. HEAL, Fosters, Detling Hill, Nr. Maidstone, Kent.

Current Literature

Collins Handguide to the Butterflies of Africa by R. H. Carcasson, embracing more than 100 colour plates illustrating some 350 species and, in many cases, their early stages, together with some line-drawings of the anatomical structures of Lepidoptera, and a map of the world's faunistic regions, etc. The softback edition has XIX + 109pp., the hardback XIX+188pp., the latter containing a "simplified provisional check-list of the butterflies of the Afrotropical region." Publishers: Collins, St. James's Place, London, 1981. Price: paperback £4.95; hardback £7.95.

This beautifully-illustrated little book is — to quote its author — "meant to be no more than an introduction to the study of African butterflies." It is clearly a labour of love and as such it has considerable intrinsic merit, even if one disagrees with the use of English names for the species figured in it, in preference to the Latin ones which all serious students of African butterflies should try to memorize from the start, as most African butterflies do not have English names and the ones they do have tend to differ in the popular books dealing with them.

The book contains a few systematic oddities, such as: *Amauris albigmaculata* (on p. 72) being unnecessarily emended to *A. albimaculatus* (as if Dr. Butler, who described it, did not know his Latin genders!) the genus *Bebearia* (on p.45) being made a subgenus of *Euphaedra* — an action not supported by van Son/Vári in Pt. IV of "The Butterflies of Southern Africa" (1979: 116-117); the exclusively Afrotropical genus *Sallya* being made a subgenus of the Neotropical *Eunica* (on p. 57), even though their early stages are quite different; and the sinking of the Afrotropical genus *Elymniopsis* (on p.65) to synonymy with the Oriental *Elymnias*, despite the fact that Dr. L. D. Miller (1968) maintained the former as a distinct species in his authoritative monograph on the higher classification of the Satyridae. No mention is made by Dr. Carcasson,